

The gift of the fab

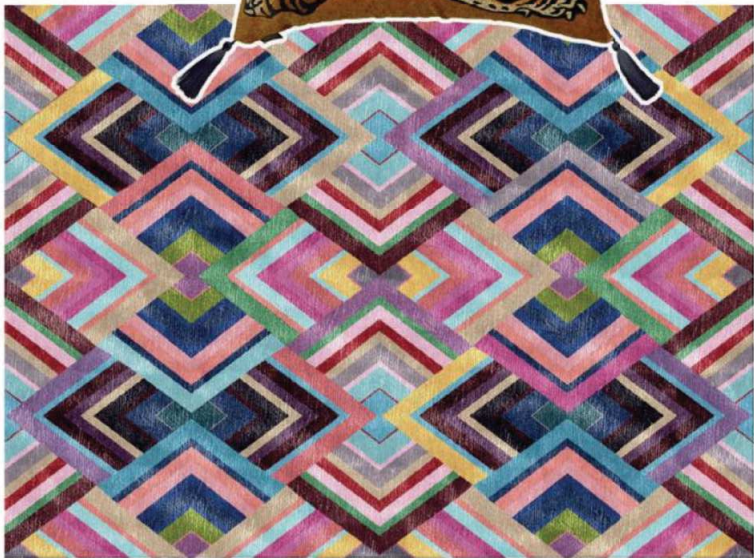
Wedding gifting has evolved: the traditional bridal registry, designed to help young newlyweds set up home without doubling up on fondue sets, seems vintage today. Chances are your sassy recipients will be on their third home – maybe even their third marriage – such is modern life. Now the onus is on gift-givers to get more creative with quirky homewares, outright luxuries, and altogether more personal prezies, whether there's a department store list or not. Permission to go off-registry and indulge...



A gilded crown bulb encased in intricate brass fretwork with a band of gold as a base... how's this luxe **Ligne Roset Jali** table lamp for a bright idea? (£184, heals.com)



It may not be a royal wedding but bride and groom will feel like queen and king in **Windsor**, the ultimate silk bedspread, which is also available in Ivory for purists. (From £549, gingerlily.co.uk)



Love, peace and luxury carpets make for a happy marriage. For the ultimate treat underfoot, **Illulian** **Design Studio's** vibrant geo **Woodstock** rug hits all the right notes. (£8,697, store.wallpaper.com)



Smed x Dolce & Gabbana is a design match made in heaven. From the **Sicily is My Love** collection, the KL-F03 kettle makes a stand-out statement that vows to keep morning tea-making harmonious. (£400, selfridges.com)

An opulent gold velvet cushion featuring **House of Hackney's** Tibetan tiger-inspired **Saber** motif... Here's to a lifetime of luxury lounging on the marital couch. (£195, libertylondon.com)



Who says marriage can be a daily grind? This beautifully handmade brass mill by **Freight** will make passing the pepper a joy for years to come. (£55, freightstore.co.uk)

Superior Italian artistry and craftsmanship have gone into creating this super soft leather holdall. Send them on their honeymoon in style with the **Bric's Weekender**. (£340, harrolds.com)



The couple who swig together stay together: this traditional stainless steel hip flask by **Aspinal**, bound in smooth Italian calf leather, features a sneaky set of twin decanters. (£85, selfridges.com)

Traditionally a wedding gift list helped the bride and groom to "set up home". How has this changed over the years?

"Whilst the more traditional homeware and luxury bedding by leading brands such as Frette, Christoffe and Baccarat are still in demand, in recent years we have seen an increase in popularity of experiential gifts, such as fragrance or wine masterclasses, post-wedding beauty treatments at the Wellness Clinic, and once-in-a-lifetime honeymoons by the in-store travel specialist Abercrombie & Kent."

How do you shop for the couple who (seemingly) have everything? "To really make a wedding gift special, personalisation has become key. We are able to provide this service in many different departments: one example being the new Luggage Department (ideal for the honeymoon getaway) and the engraving service in the new Wines & Spirits room, allowing gifts to be personalised with anything, from monogramming or simple meaningful messages, to elaborate personalised designs. These can be etched directly onto bottles, glassware (from Champagne flutes to decanters), leather (for hip flasks), wooden gift boxes and cardboard boxes."

GIFTING TRENDS

Still unsure what to give the couple who have everything? The personal shopping team at Harrods give us their take on modern day wedding gifts "We are proud to be able to provide our customers with the very best products the world has to offer, and wedding gifting is no exception. With a royal wedding just around the corner, our Home Stylists have seen certain gifting trends becoming increasingly popular, including gift monogramming silverware and complete dinner sets. There has been a slight revival around home entertaining too; the more savvy guests opt for crystal decanters and eccentric barware options, whereas younger couples now tend to invest more on collector pieces such as Jeff Koons for Bernabeud, exclusive home centrepieces by Lalique or limited edition fine art pieces from the likes of Andy Warhol and Lorenzo Quinn."

If marriage is a mirror, make sure it's a seriously stylish one, like the timeless **Ghidini 1961 Sunset** mirror in polished brass. (£1170, artemest.com)

